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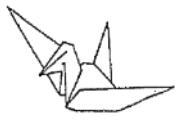


Website



Facebook

<u>Days being guests at the WFC in Hiroshima</u>	Beate Bruder	2
<u>Participated in America PAX</u>	Akiko Kai	3
<u>What I Gained from Attending America PAX 2025</u>	Yukihiro Ishikawa	4
<u>America PAX Participation Report</u>	Masae Shoda	5
<u>What I have learned in America PAX</u>	Chinatsu Moriue	6
<u>Participated in America PAX</u>	Sakura Miyamoto	7
<u>Participated in Coventry Day 2025</u>	Soh Horie	8
<u>A Visit Back to Hiroshima by Mr. Mikio Togashi</u>	Kaori Kurumaji	9
<u>Participating in the 26th International Festa</u>	Michiko Yamane	10
<u>America PAX Report Session</u>	Satoko Ochi	11
<u>Holiday Party</u>	Susan Cox	12
<u>Guest Comments from the Guestbook</u>		13
<u>Dinner with the Directors</u>	Bradley Cox	14
<u>WFC's "Hiroshima Pass on Basic Course"</u>	Junko Hattori	15



## Days being guests at the World-Friendship-Center in Hiroshima - A special deep experience for 3 generations - Beate Bruder

### Tage als Gäste im Weltfreundschaftszentrum in Hiroshima – Ein besonderes Erlebnis für drei Generationen -

In September 2025 I traveled with a German group spanning 3 generations to Japan. It consisted of a son of a good friend, my niece, her husband (this three from 32-36 years old), their 16 month old son, and me at the age of 71 years.

At the WFC in Hiroshima Sue and Brad, the directors, gave us a really warm welcome. The wonderful breakfast, the many helpful bits of information and the enjoyable times sharing and exchanging thoughts provided us with many good feelings. We felt at home and well-supported. My first encounter with the WFC Hiroshima was in 1997 when I came with my two older sisters and one of their friends. In the following years, I have fortunately had the chance to meet WFC Hiroshima members about 12 more times, both in Japan and in Germany.

The wealth of information I received about the events and consequences of August 6th in Hiroshima and August 9th in Nagasaki keeps me motivated to work for peace and a nuclear-free world going all the time.

The personal moments which I shared with the WFC always give me courage and strength for my activities for peace in my life and for our peace group in Essen.

That's why it was important to me to make these resources available to the future generations. The peace program and the personal encounters with its members at the WFC reached my fellow travelers.

A highlight was the "Potluck Party" on Saturday at the WFC: a fantastic buffet with many delicious dishes, lively discussions, and joyful singing together.

I was particularly moved by the simultaneous singing of "Furusato" in sign language. Klass, 16 months old, followed the gestures to the song with his hands, just like all of us. These invaluable experiences are unforgettable!

Of course, we also took time to enjoy the current sights, such as Miyajima and the castle. It was a wonderful, stimulating stay in Hiroshima all around.

A very, very heartfelt thank all members and friends of the WFC Hiroshima!

I sincerely hope that many more people of all ages will be able to experience the atmosphere of the WFC Hiroshima in the future.

In remembering Babara Reynolds mission: "To foster peace, one friend at time"

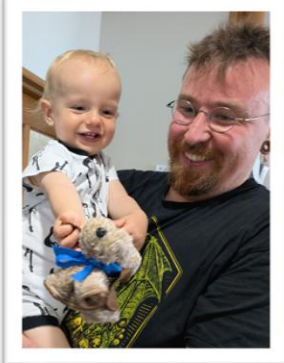
Let's stay open for new friends and take care of all our friends!

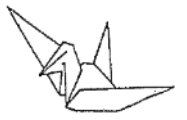
Beate Bruder with Vivien, Klaas, Michael and Mitja

**In Gedenken an Barbara Reynolds' Mission: "Frieden fördern - ein Freund nach dem anderen"**

**Lasst uns offen für neue Freundschaften sein und uns um all unsere Freunde kümmern!**

**Beate**





## Participated in America PAX Akiko Kai



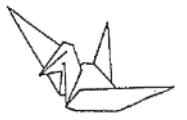
The Americans bid me farewell with a firm handshake and a hug, saying, "Be sure to come back!" My two-week experience in the United States left me with unforgettable, deeply moving memories. I gave speeches sharing my experiences of the atomic bombing at eight locations, including junior high schools, high schools, universities, churches, and community centers, and read picture books to three elementary school classes. During that time, I was hosted by four different host families. It was my first time giving speeches in English abroad and staying with host families, so I set off with absolutely no idea what to expect. However, the people in the U.S. welcomed us with genuine warmth and heartfelt kindness. At my host family's home, they treated me as if I were a member of the family. We enjoyed delightful conversations and delicious American-style meals. Not only that, but they looked after my well-being, took me to beautiful places near their home, and even came to listen to my speeches. This experience completely changed the image I had held of the United States until then. It made me realize that I shouldn't view other countries in a one-sided manner.

My first stop was in Oregon, where I stayed at a retirement village surrounded by nature. My host mother's husband told me that she was actually a "downwind victim" of nuclear testing and had been exposed to radiation. I truly realized that there are radiation victims all over the world, people who are living with suffering. During my speech at the university—which happened to be a history class—everyone was interested in modern Japanese history and why Japan had gone to war. There were also questions about the situation in postwar Japan. The questions went beyond mere reconstruction to include changes in the Japanese mindset. At the church, there were questions about the aftereffects suffered by atomic bomb survivors, the challenges faced by second-generation survivors, and the effects of radiation. Everyone sincerely wished for a peaceful world and the abolition of nuclear weapons, and they expressed their hopes for peace through art, origami cranes, music, and other means.

In Seattle, we visited an elementary school. The children's reactions during a reading of the picture book "Aogiri's Dream" were truly moving. "Is this a true story?" "Is the Aogiri tree still alive today?" "Did your father go to war?" "My grandfather told me stories about the war." "I'm half Japanese..." Questions and comments flew back and forth without pause, making for a very enjoyable time. Amidst all this, I believe the children grasped, in their own way, the power, horror, and tragedy of the atomic bomb. At the church, there were also questions about Japan's refusal to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the effects of radiation from the Fukushima nuclear accident. Everyone viewed the nuclear issue as a current concern.

In Ohio, we had the opportunity to trace the footsteps of Barbara Reynolds at Wilmington University and engage in warm conversations and exchanges of ideas with many researchers and artists. People came to listen to our speech and shared their heartfelt reflections with us. I was amazed to discover that so many people are dedicated to peace and are conducting research on war from various perspectives. It was a deeply moving experience. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the WFC directors who sincerely guided this project from conception to completion, to Mr. Tachibana, Ms. Hattori, and Ms. Ochi to all other WFC members, and to the five amazing companions who joined me on this journey to convey our hopes for peace with all our hearts. Drawing on this experience, I intend to continue sharing my experiences as a survivor of the atomic bombing and to deepen my own activities with a broad perspective and a keen awareness of the issues. I cannot help but feel that the world is currently heading down the path toward war. Although my individual strength is limited, I sincerely hope to continue my activities without giving up, with perseverance.





## What I Gained from Attending America PAX 2025 Yukihiro Ishikawa

On this trip, I had the opportunity to visit three states—Oregon, Washington, and Ohio—and share the message I wanted to convey as a survivor of the atomic bombings. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the host families and volunteers who supported me in each location, helping with preparations for my lectures and other activities.

In my lectures, under the theme “Let’s Think About Nuclear Weapons and Peace!”, I spoke about my own experience as a survivor and what peace truly means. I also wanted people to understand that there are many victims of nuclear weapons in the United States as well. This was especially important to me because I had visited Reactor B at the Hanford Site in Washington State the previous year (where the plutonium for the Nagasaki atomic bomb was produced).

In Amity, Oregon, my first stop, I gave my first lecture at a church. At the Linfield University library, a researcher approached me quietly, and he mentioned that open discussion is no longer possible at American universities today, making life increasingly difficult, and I could discern trends regarding the future of democracy.

In Seattle, Washington, I gave lectures at universities and high schools. At the University of Washington, I had a discussion with people knowledgeable about nuclear issues, which was very inspiring and meaningful. It was unfortunate to learn that the Sadako statue here had been stolen, with only the ankles remaining. A rally to abolish nuclear weapons was held in front of the federal building on the International Day of Peace, and I gave a speech there. Citing the Doomsday Clock as an example, I concluded by saying that in order to turn back the clock, people need to become a little wiser, and that we should pray for humanity’s survival on Earth.



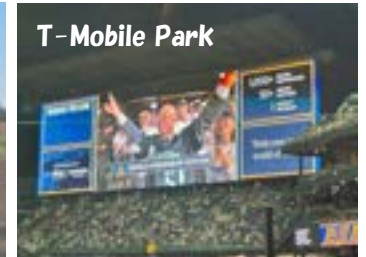
**Presentation at  
First Baptist Church**



**Speech in front of the  
Seattle Federal Building**



**Hardworking horse with Mike**

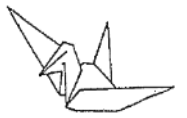


**T-Mobile Park**

In Ohio, there was a three-day symposium marking the 50th anniversary of the Wilmington University Peace Resource Center, founded by Barbara Reynolds. It was my first time visiting the home where Barbara and her family lived, I had met her over 50 years ago when the WFC was located in Minami-Kannon, Hiroshima, and that remains a cherished memory. The university preserves many records of Barbara’s legacy, and I was once again struck by what a noble person she was—a truly great peace activist. I was greatly assisted by Tanya, the center’s director, and Nancy, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Nancy was also my host family; she and her husband enjoy traditional farming methods, such as hand-sowing rye seeds and leveling the soil with a horse. Since this year is the Year of the Horse, I used a majestic horse on my New Year’s card.

I was honored to deliver the keynote address on the first day of the symposium. The talks by many of the other speakers also centered on nuclear issues and peace, and I am grateful for what was a dense and fruitful visit. According to a woman from Washington, D.C. (Ms. Bridget Moix), government support for American nuclear victims—particularly those known as “downwinders”—has been expanding for about two years now. This made me feel the need for a sustained campaign in Japan as well regarding the methods of government support for the many victims of war. And this is despite the fact that 80 years have passed since the end of the war. I was also deeply moved by the documentary film “Bombshell.” I look forward to the opportunity for it to be screened in Japan as well. Regarding this, I feel a sense of anxiety and anger that the very foundation of a democratic society—freedom of speech—is being undermined, a reality brought about by the Trump administration’s crackdown on the intellectual class, the media, and the channels through which information reaches the general public.

Finally, here’s some surprising news. It happened when I was watching the final game between the Mariners and the Dodgers in Seattle (the first game of the last three-game series). We, the group sent by WFC, were shown on the big screen in center field and introduced. I guess that was special treatment thanks to Roger’s arrangement. I was surprised! (we received the video from the team, but it hasn’t been made public.) At first, the WFC logo appeared, and I imagined the announcement might have been something like, “We’d like to introduce seven peace ambassadors from Japan who have come to speak about nuclear weapons and peace.” It sounded like they said “Yukihiro Ishikawa of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations,” so I’ll take that as a positive sign. I’m rooting for the success of the next PAX event in the U.S.



# America PAX Participation Report

Masae Shoda

My recent activities in the United States provided me with a valuable experience that cannot be found on a typical sightseeing trip. I spoke about the reality of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Kiyomi Kono's experiences as a survivor, and my father's experiences as a soldier in the Akatsuki Unit who provided medical aid. I am grateful to everyone for welcoming me so warmly and listening to my story.

**September 19–23:** Departed from Haneda; Portland, Oregon – McMinnville; Stayed at Barbara and Mike's home. On the 20th, we participated in a peace and song gathering titled "Seeking Peace" at a church in Portland, Oregon. We listened to nostalgic folk songs, sang along, and enjoyed a pleasant time interacting with everyone. My first lectures took place on the 22nd—two sessions with a class and in the auditorium at Linfield University and on the 23rd, I gave a lecture to a class and in the small auditorium at McMinnville High School. The students listened intently, asked questions, and we were able to interact. That night, I traveled to Seattle by train and arrived at Roger's home late at night in their car.



**September 24–26:** Stayed at Kathy and Roger's home in Seattle, Washington. On the 24th, I gave a lecture to a class taught by Mr. Inoue at Kamiak High School. On the 25th, I gave a talk in a Japanese class at International Middle School and took a photo with Ikeda in front of a sign that read, "Welcome to Seattle from Hiroshima." I was deeply moved when the teacher Takako sent me the students' mixed Japanese-English reflection essays after I returned to Japan.

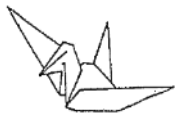
In the afternoon, we visited the "Sadako Statue" in Seattle Park. The upper part of the statue's body had been stolen, so we helped Mr. Stanley, who is raising funds for its reconstruction. After dinner at a Quaker church right next to the statue, we gave a talk. On the 26th, we presented a petition on nuclear issues to Senator Patty Murray's staff at the Federal Building, and they listened to us attentively. Outside, there was a rally for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and we participated by handing out flyers and origami cranes. In the evening, we went to watch the Mariners vs. Dodgers game, and thanks to the kindness of our host Roger, former director, there was a surprise where our delegation members were shown on the big screen.

**September 27–October 2:** Ohio—Air Force Museum to Wilmington; stayed at Becky and Craig's house. On the 27th, we flew to Ohio, and on the 28th, we visited the former home of Barbara Reynolds. At the Air Force Museum, I felt a sense of helplessness upon reading the description that it was "the weapon that ended World War II." When I spoke to an American woman who happened to be there and told her I had come as a Peace Ambassador, I was surprised when she said, "I'm sorry." She explained that her father had been attacked by a Zero fighter pilot, thrown into the sea, but was later rescued. I finally arrived at the University of Wilmington. That evening, we attended a dinner reception with the other invited guests. The year 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of Barbara Reynolds' establishment of the Peace Resource Center at the university, as well as the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings, and a commemorative symposium was being held. We had been invited to share the true reality of the atomic bombings. On the 29th, following the opening ceremony, I concluded my afternoon lecture and Q&A session in English, and then attended as many of the guest speakers' lectures as possible to network with them. I was able to exchange a few words with Professors Yuki Miyamoto, Norma Field, and Ann Sherif (center in the photo). During the event, I watched a documentary film titled Bombshell in the evenings; the director expressed a strong desire to screen it in Japan. I also enjoyed a radio play featuring music and narration composed by Dai Fujikura, who lives in the UK. After returning to Columbus, I gave my final lecture at a church and spent my last night in the U.S. at Rosemary and Ray's home. After returning home, I reunited with Dr. Hong Jun-yuan, a Taiwanese associate professor whose lecture I had attended in Wilmington, at the Hiroshima Museum of Contemporary Art.

His wife's grandfather was a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and a video work tracing his footsteps is on display there through March. Also on display are mementos belonging to Tomiko Shoda, survivor of the atomic

bombing in Hiroshima, the mother of Minori—a Taiwanese woman living in the U.S. whom I met during the same visit—The video was created by Minori. I am deeply grateful that I was able to have such a rewarding experience, thanks to the connections and passion of the former WFC directors, as well as the dedicated efforts of Tanya Maus of the University of Wilmington. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved on both the Japanese and American sides.





## What I have learned in America PAX Chinatsu Moriue

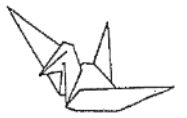
There are two main things I learned through my experience with PAX in the United States. Firstly, the fact that young Americans are interested in the atomic bombings and are seriously engaging with the issue. Before my trip, I harbored the prejudice that young Americans knew little about the atomic bombings and had little interest in them. Furthermore, having been exposed to media coverage that emphasized the differences in values between Japan and the United States regarding the atomic bombings, I unconsciously assumed that Japan, as the victim, and the United States, as the perpetrator, could never truly understand one another. However, when I visited and gave presentations at various educational institutions—from elementary schools to universities—through PAX, many students listened intently. Afterward, they asked questions about the atomic bombings and shared candid opinions, such as “Atomic bombs are wrong.” While I cannot rule out the possibility that the schools I visited were relatively open-minded, I still felt a great sense of hope seeing young people who were willing to question and reflect on the issue rather than uncritically justifying the atomic bombings.

Secondly, the significance of Hiroshima’s peace education was shared in the United States as well. I spoke about the atomic bomb and peace education I had received in Hiroshima, as well as the peace activities I engaged in during high school, such as organizing a petition drive and conducting interviews with atomic bomb survivors. After my presentation, I was deeply moved when a local attendee told me, “Since many people in the U.S. have never experienced peace education, everyone was very interested in what you had to say.” Education—particularly education related to historical understanding—is an extremely sensitive issue. Nevertheless, the fact that Hiroshima’s peace education was received so favorably made me feel that the thoughts and feelings of the atomic bomb survivors and our predecessors can be shared across national borders and differences in perspective.

Through this experience, I have come to realize that, in order to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons, it is essential for each individual to think for themselves and speak out—rather than framing the issue in terms of a dichotomy between victims and perpetrators.

I am currently a member of the student team at the Hyogo Prefecture UNICEF Association and am involved in activities related to the abolition of nuclear weapons. Moving forward, I intend to continue advocating for peace, using my local community and university as my base. I believe that the power of young people, who will lead the next generation, can change the world.





## Participated in America PAX Sakura Miyamoto

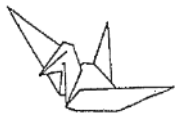
I had many new experiences at this year's PAX in the U.S. From giving speeches in English and reading picture books aloud to interacting with my host family, everything was a first for me, and I gained so much from the experience. Before participating in PAX, I was worried that Americans wouldn't listen to what I had to say, but those fears turned out to be unfounded. This PAX was a life-changing experience that transformed my perspective.

The thing I was most looking forward to during PAX was visiting the Sadako statue in Seattle. I had heard on the news that "someone had cut off and stolen the arms of the Sadako statue in Seattle for money," and I wanted to visit the site in person to see the current situation with my own eyes. Now that I've had the opportunity to visit, I feel that seeing it firsthand has allowed me to take the issue more personally. I'm not yet sure exactly what I can do, but I think this was a good opportunity to develop a sense of crisis management. At the end of this essay, I've included a photo of the Sadako statue, which was cut down to just the ankles.

What struck me most was the realization that "the desire for peace is universal." After our presentation, many people stayed behind to share their thoughts with the Peace Ambassadors and discuss the content. I believe this is because they are genuinely committed to peace. I came to understand that rather than giving up on dialogue simply because we come from different countries, it is important to acknowledge our differences and engage in conversation from both perspectives. The same applies to English. I realized that rather than being intimidated by thoughts like, "My English isn't good enough to get my point across" or "I'll probably make mistakes, so I don't want to say anything," having the mindset of "It's okay to make mistakes—I'll just try to say something" is what leads to mutual understanding.

I intend to build on this experience and actively participate in various events on my own initiative. I want to go beyond the confines of my reporting duties, interact with a wide range of people through these events, and expand my network. Conversation is a major step toward building peace. I hope to talk with many people about many different topics and build my own vision of peace. Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported PAX for giving me this invaluable opportunity.





## Participated in Coventry Day 2025 Soh Horie

The event was held in Hiroshima City International House.

The place where the event was held brings back memories from when I used to teach Japanese to students from China and Burma (It is now called Myanmar).

That is a memorable place for me.

Firstly, I sang "Hiroshima Spirit as The Life of New World" as a member of the Peace Choir with all my might. The song is sung as a part of school education, and I have sung it many times with students of Misuzu-ga-oka elementary school. I sing the song in the Hiroshima Peace Park every August 6<sup>th</sup> as well. It is a wonderful song that I can sing without looking at the sheet music, which is unusual for me.

I hope that middle school students will continue to make efforts for peace. The Kagura (Shinto music and dance numbers) performance by high school students was amazing. Ensemble Kanon sang familiar songs to me, and I enjoyed the songs. When Square Dance was introduced as an English culture, wonderful dances were performed. The dances reminded me of my old days.

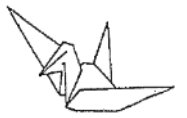
I used to enjoy square dancing, social dancing, and round dancing.

I was urged to dance by a leader in one of the groups and I attempted to dance a rumba. I wasn't able to move like old times, but I was glad to be able to dance with the other three people because my body had absorbed dancing.

I hope that the opportunity to take part in this event inspires many people to think about peace. The fact that reconciliation is crucial for bringing about peace comes home to me nowadays. Fifty thousand casualties were reported in Ukraine, Gaza and Myanmar in the past year. As a person who endured the miseries of war, I have been desperately hoping that the lands become peaceful as soon as possible.



Soh Horie has shared his experiences of the atomic bombing with many guests at WFC



## A Visit Back to Hiroshima by Mr. Mikio Togashi Kaori Kurumaji

Our long-time friend of WFC, Mr. Mikio Togashi, visited Hiroshima in early November of last year (2025). During his stay of several days, he reunited with old friends and acquaintances and visited sites such as WFC and Schmoe House. During his visit, WFC provided a peace guide for the Peace Memorial Park and accompanied him to the Peace Memorial Museum and the Barbara Reynolds Memorial Monument. On the afternoon of November 4th, we invited Mikio to the new WFC facility in Funairi-Nakamachi for a gathering with the Directors, the Chairperson, and several other WFC-related members. During this time, Mikio shared stories of his family and his own life while showing us many old photographs on his tablet. Mikio's father, William Togashi (commonly known as Willie), was a Japanese American born in Los Angeles. As a teenager, William moved to Hiroshima with his parents and attended school there. He later studied English at Aoyama Gakuin University and had a promising future ahead of him. However, with the outbreak of World War II, he was drafted into the Japanese military, which led to the bitter experience of having his U.S. citizenship revoked.

After the war, he utilized his English proficiency to work at the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC) and other organizations. It was around this time that he came into contact with members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and became dedicated to activities for peace and international understanding. While serving as an interpreter and board member on the grand stage of the peace movement, he never neglected small acts of service within his immediate community.

It is said that the Togashi family lived for a time in the Schmoe House in Ushita while they were in Hiroshima. When Mikio visited Hiroshima about ten years ago, he remembered the Schmoe House with great fondness, and we went together to see the house near Jogakuin University. Unfortunately, that house has since been demolished and no longer remains.

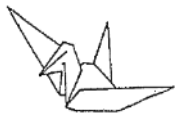


William Togashi returned to the United States in 1957, followed by his wife and children the next year. In February 1961, he regained his U.S. citizenship as a conscientious objector. Around the same time, he and his two eldest children joined the Washington Friends Meeting (Quakers). He served selflessly not only within his own meeting but also in the broader Quaker community, acting as a board member for the "Peace and Social Order Committee" and the Washington Peace Center, an interpreter for Japanese visitors to D.C., and a liaison for the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima. He also cooperated wholeheartedly as a host when the World Peace Pilgrimage, organized by Barbara Reynolds, visited the United States.

Willie Togashi possessed a gentle sense of humor within his quiet and modest demeanor, carrying a heart of compassion and sharing. Although he passed away in 1977, the path he walked as a bridge between Japan and the U.S., and as a seeker of peace, remains deeply engraved in the hearts of many.

In preparation for this trip to Japan, Mikio Togashi also exchanged emails with Tanya Maus, Director of the Peace Resource Center (PRC), also known as the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Memorial Collection. This is because Mikio had previously visited the PRC at Wilmington College on August 6, 2025, and met with Tanya there.

The day after his visit to WFC, Mikio went to visit his ancestral graves and spent time connecting with his relatives. As one of WFC's wonderful friends, we sincerely hope that Mikio Togashi remains in good health and will always stop by WFC to renew our old friendship whenever he returns to Hiroshima.



## Participating in the 26<sup>th</sup> International Festa Michiko Yamane

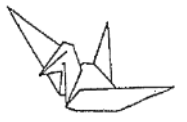
The International Festa is an event where you can enjoy multicultural coexistence, international exchange and cooperation, and various activities related to foreign cultures. It has been held every year since 2000, mainly by citizens groups that continue international exchange in Hiroshima City. WFC also participated in the 26th International Festa 2025 held on November 16.

The venue was Himawari on the second basement floor of the International Conference Center, which was shared with 12 other civic organizations. We set up booths, and exhibited American PAX2025 photos and documents on two panels. Ms. Akiko Kai and Ms. Sakura Miyamoto, moreover, Mr. Yukihiro Ishikawa, a participant of American PAX who was exposed to the atomic bomb at the age of 4 in Hiroshima, came from Tottori City, and Ms. Masae Shoda, a second-generation atomic bomb survivor and legacy successor of the atomic bombing experience in Hiroshima also participated from Osaka City.

Sue's gentle smile impressed young people and children, and it seemed that Dr. Tomin Harada's words, "Moment of Peace" came true. There were many opportunities to talk to the visitors, and it was a good opportunity to advertise WFC's English class. I also told them that Korean PAX has been continuing since 2003.

We are really happy that there were about 150 visitors. Yukiko Tanaka's handmade peace dolls and leather products made me feel the power to bring smiles to the faces of the visitors who received the gifts. I am truly grateful for Yukiko's contribution to WFC. I've always felt that whenever the World Friendship Center has a big event, all the members get united and show great power to get it done. I want to continue to do my best. This event convinced me that I should keep involved with the World Friendship Center, surrounded by wonderful directors, board members, and friends at WFC.





## America PAX Report Session

### Satoko Ochi

On Sunday, December 7, we held the “PAX USA Group Report Session” at Essor Hiroshima on the 10th floor of Orizuru Tower. PAX stands for Peace Ambassador eXchange.

The Peace Ambassador delegation visited three U.S. states—Oregon, Washington, and Ohio—from September 19 to October 3, 2025. The six participants ranged in age from high school students to people in their 80s. All were actively engaged in peace activities and were highly motivated to continue their work overseas.

#### 6 Participants

Yukihiro Ishikawa	Atomic Bomb Survivor
Masae Shoda	Legacy Successor
Akiko Kai	Legacy Successor
Sanjurou Ikeda	Sports Instructor
Chinatsu Moriue	University Student
Sakura Miyamoto	High School Student



At the debriefing session, all members used slides to share their individual experiences and what they had learned.

In Oregon and Washington, everyone had the opportunity to give 7 to 10 presentations, and we were given many chances to speak to younger generations at elementary, middle, high schools, and universities. We were also able to interact with local residents at churches and senior centers. On September 26, we watched the Mariners vs. Dodgers game at T-Mobile Park in Seattle. Coincidentally, this date marked the United Nations-designated “International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons,” and the WFC and Mr. Ishikawa, A-bomb survivor, were featured on the stadium’s giant screen. We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to raise awareness of the WFC among so many people.

At Wilmington University in Ohio, we gave presentations and participated in workshops as part of the Peace Symposium and the international academic conference “Archives as Witnesses,” held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Resource Center (PRC).

During the Q&A session, an attendee asked the following question: “Even when we organize signature campaigns for nuclear abolition as part of our peace activities, there are days when we don’t get a single signature. How can we stay motivated?”

One member of the delegation replied: “Peace must not be destroyed. There is nothing to be gained from war. I want to demonstrate that I am taking action based on my own convictions as a citizen.” The word “conviction” resonated deeply.

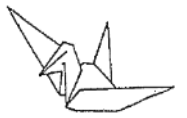
Although the power of a single person is small, I felt that if we don’t give up and keep on going, grassroots civic activities would spread, that will lead to new encounters and enabling us to take the next step.



About 60 people attended

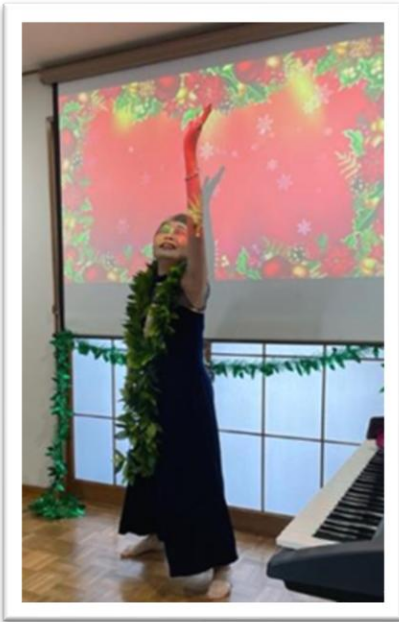


Media Interviews



# Holiday Party

## Susan Cox



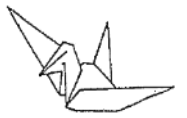
This year's Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 20th in 401. Beforehand, the room was decorated, and cookies were baked. Food was offered in the large tatami room, everything from cookies, to snacks, to pizza. The Directors provided a lovely, warm pomegranate punch as well as other teas and drinks. The main room was used for gathering and performances. It provided an opportunity for English classes and anyone interested to perform for the audience. We all experienced a talented and spirited show. Sachie, from the Tuesday morning class demonstrated her beautiful ability to perform a Hawaiian dance. She then convinced three gentleman to put on costumes and perform with her. Did everyone already know how well those men could dance? Thanks for being ready and willing participants. It was so much fun to watch. Hopefully there will be an encore next year!

The Wednesday class, along with the Translation class, performed the classic song, "I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" in a semi – Karaoke way. They created visuals to hold up for the various animals in the song. The idea came from a book they are reading by Roald Dahl, "The Enormous Crocodile," who has a hippopotamus for a friend. It is a very catchy tune, and a lot of fun to sing! Put it on your list for next Christmas!



Two classes offered up games to play. Thursday's class offered a game of charades. Members acted out different Christmas time related objects and activities. The good news is we have great actors! All words were guessed! Friday's class played Simon Says with the group. Only touch your toes if Simon says! We were all laughing and having a wonderful time!

Sachie and Dot sang a song together and everyone enjoyed socializing, eating and celebrating a season of giving and friendship. The event wrapped up with a reading of "The Night Before Christmas." Thank you so much to everyone who contributed and/or participated in this year's event. Start thinking about the fun possibilities for next year and plan to attend.



## Guest Comments from the Guestbook

2025/11/15 Ohio, USA

Thank you for your kind hospitality. You are excellent hosts. Thank you, too, to Soh san, Mariko, and Miho for being such kind, knowledgeable guides. I would love to return to Hiroshima in the future- such a peaceful, beautiful city. Godspeed!... Lori

2025/12/19 from Oregon, USA

What a gift to experience the WFC and the peace work going on in Hiroshima. Thank you for your kindness and hospitality. It was wonderful to hear and see so many stories and so much history. Micah and Mira... connected by Parks and Paula



2025/12/22-24 from Switzerland

Thank you to Sue and Brad for their hospitality and storytelling. We enjoyed discussions with Hiroshima survivor Masue Matsumoto san who taught us about history and changes in her life and for Japanese since the A-Bomb. Thank you to Yoko san for her very rich tour of the Peace Park. Marlen and Alberto

2026/1/4-7 From Michigan USA

What a thoroughly enjoyable and informative stay in Hiroshima! Sue and Brad are wonderful hosts for the WFC and we are grateful for the immersive experience in A-Bomb history and ongoing efforts for world peace. The Brethren Volunteer Service Connection has been fun as well! Tamiko, MC, and Mori

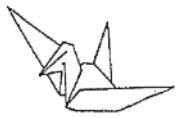


A-Bomb Survivor  
Masue Matsumoto

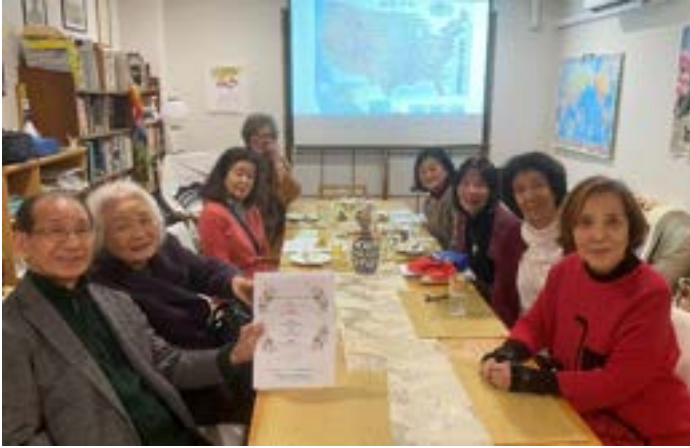


A-Bomb Survivor  
Soh Horie





## Dinner with the Directors Bradley Cox



The first “Dinner with the Directors” was held on January 24 at the Guest House gathering room. Co-Directors Brad and Sue Cox hosted the event featuring American food, and a presentation about the National Parks of the United States that they had visited in recent years.

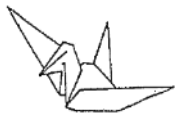
Sue handled the cooking. Dinner consisted of a Taco dip, Shredded Barbequed Chicken with coleslaw, Macaroni and Cheese, and a dessert of Apple Pie.



The presentation was an introduction to the US National Park System, and photos of the National Park. They started with the parked area closest to their home, the Blue Ridge Parkway & Peaks of Otter. Continuing from there, they detailed their 2022 cross country trip to the Northwest states including Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Crater Lake, Glacier, and Badlands national parks, plus lots of smaller parks along the way. This was Sue’s first “cross-country” drive, which covered 13,840 km by car over about 5 weeks.

The second trip that was shared was a 2023 trip to the southwest states which feature numerous National Parks and smaller sights, including Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Saguaro, White Sands, and Carlsbad Caverns, plus a visit to the Albuquerque Balloon festival and Antelope Canyon in Native American tribal lands.

The English presentation allowed the participants to practice their English skills, try new food from a different land, and learn about the Co-directors and their passion for travel, while raising some funds for the WFC!



## Passing On Hiroshima: WFC's "Hiroshima Pass on Basic Course" we held 3 sessions this FY. Junko Hattori

Since 2017, the World Friendship Center (WFC) has been offering the "Hiroshima Pass On Basic Course" as part of its initiative to pass on the legacy of the atomic bombing. Inviting resource persons with a wide range of backgrounds—including those engaged in sharing atomic bomb testimonies, preserving and transmitting memories, writing on war and peace, and working through dialogical arts—we have been exploring the theme of "passing on" through lectures, fieldwork, and other activities. Now in its ninth year, the course has welcomed participants of all ages each time. We sincerely thank everyone for your participation and continued support.

This year, three sessions were held at the Chuo Kominkan (Central Community Center). We would like to reflect on the learning from each session and carry it forward into the coming year together.

### **Session 1: July 26 (Sat) "What It Means to 'Pass On' – Keiko Sugiura" Ms. Keiko Sugiura (Family Testimony Successor)**

Ms. Sugiura, who inherited the experience of her father who was exposed to the atomic bomb at the age of 13, is active as a "family testimony successor" in Hiroshima. In this session, she spoke about her personal journey—from working as a professional announcer to becoming engaged in activities to "pass on Hiroshima." Through her experiences, she shared what influenced her current work, as well as the realizations and feelings she has developed along the way. In particular, she spoke about a message she learned from a hibakusha during her time as an announcer: "**The weight of every human life is equal.**" She described this as a kind of "compass of Hiroshima" and expressed her wish to pass this message on—especially to the next generation. Participants responded deeply, sharing comments such as, "*This was truly encouraging,*" and reflecting on the words of Tamotsu Eguchi, "*Each and every person is precious.*" Many expressed a renewed desire to begin, in their own way, the work of passing on Hiroshima.

### **Session 2: October 25 (Sat) "What Is the Reality of the Atomic Bombing? – Entrusting Memory to the Next Generation in the Digital and AI Era" Dr. Luli van der Does (Director of the Peace Center, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hiroshima University)**

What constitutes the "reality of the atomic bombing"? And in the AI Era, what truly resonates when we seek to convey it to the next generation? Amid the proliferation of so-called "fake news," the session offered a depth of insight. Some participant reflected that this is a critically important theme, Hiroshima may be one of the places spent the past 80 years grappling with such "Fake" since the period of post-bombing censorship. They emphasized the need for continued attentiveness in how the reality of the A-bombing is communicated today. Others described the session as profoundly engaging and they hope for further sessions. "Cultural violence and discrimination can hinder efforts to confront this reality." Another reflection was the importance of embracing the diversity of hibakusha testimonies in their entirety—including variations in how individuals describe their experiences, even when expressions may not be literally factual, it shows the intensity of the experience that was lived - such complexity itself can and should be understood as part of the "reality" we seek to pass on.

### **Session 3: March 21, 2026 (Sat) "What Is 'Hiroshima'? – Thinking Together" Ms. Tomoko Watanabe (Director, NPO ANT-Hiroshima)**

Ms. Watanabe invited participants to reflect together on what it means to carry forward the memories and records born from human actions that led to the atomic bombing, and what Hiroshima should convey to the world today. Her work expands outward from the core of the atomic bombing experience across time and space. She emphasized that: To face Hiroshima is to face oneself. Hiroshima is not merely a historical event, but something living. "Without records, there is no memory." She described the journey of seeking Hiroshima as a journey of seeking oneself. During the session, participants watched together the 1986 documentary Another Hiroshima: Song of Arirang. Participants shared reflections such as: "This was a depth of learning I never experienced in school. I hope there will be more opportunities to learn about peace and past wars." (teen participant)

"Starting from the atomic bombing experience, and expanding that work across Asia, your encounters there seem to have deepened your exploration of Hiroshima, leading to your current activities."

